

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2007, claims 14-16 have been added. Claims 1-2, and 4-16 are now active in this application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 4-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meek (USPN 7,092,969).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In Meek et al., when derivative data is generated, information about the original data is attached to the derivative data. The arrangement of Meek et al. is mainly intended to make it possible to generate new derivative data from the original data by retrieving the original data based on the information about the original data attached to existing derivative data when a user wishes to generate the new derivative data from the existing derivative data.

In contrast, in the inventions recited in the present application, the original data and the derivative data are correlated with each other (...method for managing original data and derivative data by relating the original data and the derivative data). In other words, the original data and the derivative data are linked in two ways, namely, from the original data to the derivative data and vice versa. Therefore, in the inventions recited in the present claims, in addition to the capability of identifying the original data of the derivative data by referring to the information about the original data attached to the derivative data, it is possible to know what kind of derivative data has been generated from the original data by referring to the information about the derivative data in the original data.

Further disclosed in Meek et al. is a method for storing editing information by updating the source image repository database table. However, in the inventions recited in the present claims, such a special metadata management system is **NOT** required, because both the original data and the derivative data have the metadata, such as the link information and editing information, as directly attached information and they are linked in two ways.

In addition, in the inventions recited in the present claims, new derivative data (second derivative data) can be generated by further processing the first derivative data, and the inventions recited in the present claims can directly relate the first derivative data and the second derivative data. Consequently, a tree structure of the original data and the derivative data can be formed. In contrast, the arrangement of Meek et al. can only form the direct relation between the original data and the derivative data, so that the second derivative data has to be related to the original data when a user wishes to generate the second derivative data from the first derivative data.

Since such a tree structure of the original data and the derivative data can be formed with the inventions recited in the present claims, the inventions recited in the present claims have the following advantageous effects over what is disclosed in Meek et al.

In Meek et al., editing information, which represents the content of editing performed on original data to obtain derivative data, is stored in the metadata management database. Therefore, for example (please see FIG. 1 of the accompanying APPENDIX), when a user requests an image, Meek et al.'s system can send an appropriate image to the user by referring to the editing information in the metadata management database. However, if the user who saw thumbnail images tries to change the parameters of gradation processing performed on the

images, *all of the images on which gradation processing has been performed must be selected by referring to the editing information.* Then, *not only the gradation processing must be performed on the original image by using new parameters, but also other processing, such as reduction and sharpness, that have already been performed, must be repeated to re-generate each of the selected derivative image.*

In contrast, in the inventions recited in the present claims, the tree structure including the original data at the top and the derivative data of the original data is formed (please see FIG. 2 of the accompanying APPENDIX). Therefore, when the user tries to change the parameters of gradation processing performed on the images, it is possible to obtain desirable images by performing gradation processing using the new parameters and by repeating processing after the gradation processing step. In other words, in the inventions recited in the present claims, it is not necessary to repeat the processing before the gradation step. Hence, in the inventions recited in the present claims, the desirable images can be obtained in a more efficient manner.

Thus, independent claims 1, 2 and 4 are patentable over Meek et al., as are dependent claims 5-13. Consequently, the allowance of claim 1, 2 and 4-13 is respectfully solicited.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 14-16, depending directly from independent claim 1, are submitted in order to further recite the features of the present invention that the desirable images can be efficiently obtained because of the tree structure.

Claim 14 delineates that the original data and at least two sets of derivative data are managed as a tree structure.

Claim 15 delineates that the data management method further manages another derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the derivative data derived from the original data, and further comprises the steps of generating link information for linking the original data and the other derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate the other derivative data from the original data, and attaching the link information and the editing information to the original data the other derivative data as accompanying information thereof.

Claim 16 delineates that the data management method further manages another derivative data which is generated through editing processing on the original data, and further comprises the steps of generating link information for linking the derivative data and the other derivative data and editing information representing the content of the editing processing to generate the other derivative data from the derivative data, and attaching the link information and the editing information to the derivative data and the other derivative data as accompanying information thereof.

The subject matter of claims 14-16 is supported, for example, by the disclosure at page 7, line 6 through page 8, line 12, page 13, line 9 through page 16, line 1 and page 16, line 22 through page 17, line 19.

As claim 1 is patentable over Meek, new claims 14-16 are patentable over Meek also and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

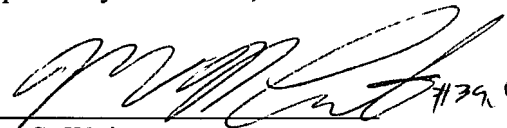
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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